

LICENSED & ON THE ROAD

ACE DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM

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“A licence is your ticket to independence and it gives you the freedom to succeed.”

Sharnie Roberts,
ACE Community Colleges Ambassador

01 INTRODUCTION

Licensed and on the Road is an award-winning program dedicated to helping Aboriginal people get a driving licence. It began in 2005 as a grass roots idea by ACE Community Colleges in response to the high number of driving offences and road fatalities that included Aboriginal people. These issues had also come to the attention of the judicial system.

Our Program assists Aboriginal people to become licensed, legal and safe drivers. It's brilliant, simple and outstandingly successful.

02

PARTNERS

ACE Community Colleges delivers this program under the NSW Roads and Maritime Services Driver Licensing Access Program.



THE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF 4 FOCUS AREAS:

- Learner Driver Knowledge Course
- Practical Driving Course
- Hazard Perception Test
- Support to pass Provisional Licence Test

03 OBJECTIVES

Road safety is at the heart of our Program which has been headed up by Aboriginal Elder, Bucky Robinson, who was the first qualified Aboriginal driving instructor in NSW.



LESSONS LEARNED

- Talking with communities and Elders, seeking their advice and guidance is the foundation on which to build.
- On-going collaboration with established, respected community organisations is essential to the operational success of the Program.

In the last 3 years alone, with the support of more than 20 communities, ACE has supported in excess of 350 people to gain a drivers licence.

04 METHODS

We work directly with Aboriginal and Community organisations in regional Northern NSW to deliver this wrap around Program.

Literacy - issues that hinder Aboriginal people from being able to pass their Learner Driver Knowledge Test are solved with an innovative literacy course.

Digital Skills - 1:1 support is supplied so everyone can practice in preparation for the Hazard Perception Test.

Driving Skills - free driving lessons from qualified driving instructors are delivered local to all students. Plus we supply access to a vehicle for the driving test.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Significant regional networks have been developed with NSW Police, NSW Roads and Maritime Services, Department of Justice, NSW State Training Services, Land Councils, Aboriginal Corporations Juvenile Justice, Inter-Agencies and many more agencies.

IMPACT. WHAT'S NEXT?

This Program is striving towards a brighter future, one with more opportunities for Aboriginal people:

- increased opportunities for Aboriginal people to gain employment
- reduction in crime and traffic related offences
- safer roads
- reduction in Aboriginal people driving unlicensed
- reduction in Aboriginal people entering the judicial process
- diversionary means to deal with traffic offenders appearing in court.